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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 67/261, the General Assembly approved the conclusions and recommendations summarized in section IV of the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries and related issues (A/C.5/67/10, annex). In the report, the Group had indicated that, to be credible and sustainable, the system for reimbursing troop- and police-contributing countries needed to include two key elements: first, it must have a factual basis, grounded in the reality of the actual costs incurred; and second, there needed to be a transparent process for periodic adjustment and review.

The goal of the collection and analysis of data on actual costs is to provide Member States with a credible basis for agreement to be reached on a standard rate for the common and essential additional costs of deployment to peacekeeping operations.

In resolution 67/261, the General Assembly also endorsed the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Group that, once a new base had been approved, there be a full review, with data gathered from a newly selected sample, every four years.

The results of the first such survey were submitted to the General Assembly in 2014 in the report of the Secretary-General on that topic (A/68/813). The present report includes details regarding the most recent process of conducting a survey to collect cost data from 10 participating Member States, pursuant to resolution 67/261 and the criteria recommended by the Senior Advisory Group.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in section III of the present report.

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I. Background

1. Since the 1980s, a system of reimbursement has been in place to compensate troop- and police-contributing countries for the costs of deploying uniformed personnel in contingents to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In 2012, on the basis of the recommendations of a Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries and related issues (see A/C.5/67/10, annex), the General Assembly established a new framework for informing its periodic consideration of the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police- contributing countries through a quadrennial survey on the common and essential additional costs incurred by a sample of 10 troop- and police-contributing countries.

2. At the core of the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/261, is the goal of establishing an effective, transparent and equitable system for regularly reviewing the rate of reimbursement to countries contributing uniformed contingents to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Such a system is to be based on actual data regarding the common, additional and essential costs incurred by troop- and police-contributing countries.

3. In approving the recommendations, the General Assembly recognized that troop- and police-contributing countries had had to augment their investment to address the contemporary challenges of peacekeeping and meet the stricter standards that it entails. For example, the effective implementation of the protection of civilians, which is a central function of United Nations peacekeeping, now requires higher levels of specialization and training and increased numbers of female personnel. Furthermore, contingent personnel are expected to be able to respond to increasing levels of direct threats to their security and that of other United Nations personnel and of United Nations property.

4. The General Assembly did not request the Secretary-General to make a recommendation on the actual rate of reimbursement for the contribution of personnel. However, with a view to assisting the Assembly in making an informed decision on the rate, the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group (ibid., para. 60), as endorsed by the Assembly, called for a more targeted and interactive approach that included:

(a) The collection of data from a sample of countries that represent the full range of troop contributions;

(b) A focused set of questions that facilitate a meaningful analytical review;

(c) An interactive data-gathering exercise that allows for explanations and clarifications, as well as direct engagement with the sample countries;

(d) The possibility of accessing open-source information for comparison;

(e) A one-year time period for the collection, analysis and review of data;

(f) Sign-off on the data by the highest-ranking financial official in the relevant government ministry.

5. This methodology replaced the questionnaire previously approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/285 (see A/60/725/Add.1). The data were now to be collected through a pared-down and simplified questionnaire to allow for more meaningful and analytical review. The questionnaire represented an evolution from the previous approach to overcome a number of problems identified in the report of the Senior Advisory Group (see A/C.5/67/10, para. 57), including a low response rate;

incomplete data; complexity and lack of relevance; an extended time frame for data collection; and a lack of feedback and proactive assistance.

6. As mandated by the General Assembly, data were to be collected from the sample of 10 countries in five categories of costs: (a) allowances; (b) personal kit and equipment (including personal weaponry); (c) predeployment medical expenses; (d) inland transportation; and (e) United Nations-specific predeployment training. Sample countries were also requested to report on any other costs.

7. The sample of 10 countries were to be selected from the top 20 contributors over the previous three-year period, including in proportion to overall troop contributions, and included countries in four broad income categories (high, upper-middle, lower-middle and low, based on World Bank data and classification).

8. In addition, in adopting resolution 67/261, the General Assembly stipulated that the 10 sample countries must represent a collective minimum of 50 per cent of the troop and police contributions made over the previous three-year period and must be willing to provide the required data with the assistance of a survey team.

9. In 2013, the Secretariat undertook the first revised survey for the purpose of collecting data on the common, additional and essential costs incurred by countries contributing troops, applying the new methodology.

10. The General Assembly, upon considering the data collected and presented in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General (A/68/813), welcomed, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 68/281, the results of the revised survey and decided to establish a single rate of reimbursement to countries contributing contingent personnel to United Nations field operations in the amount of $1,332 per person per month as from 1 July 2014, increasing to $1,365 per person per month as from 1 July 2016 and increasing to $1,410 per person per month as from 1 July 2017.

11. In keeping with the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, as approved by the General Assembly,[1] once a new base has been approved, there should be a full review, with data gathered from a newly selected sample, every four years (see A/C.5/67/10, para. 76).

II. The 2017/18 review of personnel costs

12. As mandated by the General Assembly, a quadrennial review of the personnel costs incurred by contributing countries has been undertaken in 2017/18, following the methodology approved by the Assembly in resolution 67/261.

A. Sample

13. In establishing the sample, interest was solicited from the 20 eligible Member States. The Secretariat received positive responses from 11 of those countries. A process of meetings and briefings was undertaken over the past year to make the final determination as to which 10 countries would be participating in the process.

14. Table 1 sets out the list of sample countries established to meet the criteria approved by the General Assembly in resolution 67/261. Of the 10 countries, 5 contribute formed police units as well as military contingents.

[1] See resolution 67/261.

Table 1
Sample countries participating in the personnel cost survey, 2017/18

Country	*Average contribution (percentage of total contributions) (2014–2016)*[a]	*Income level*
Bangladesh	8.32	Lower-middle
India	8.00	Lower-middle
Ethiopia	7.95	Low
Pakistan	7.81	Lower-middle
Rwanda	5.61	Low
Nepal	5.10	Low
Morocco	2.11	Lower-middle
South Africa	1.98	Upper-middle
United Republic of Tanzania	2.02	Low
Uruguay	1.51	High
Total	**50.41**	

[a] Only military and police contingent personnel deployed to peacekeeping missions.

B. Data

15. In line with the approved methodology, a questionnaire was shared with sample countries in order to collect data in the five categories of common, additional and essential costs incurred by countries in deploying personnel to peacekeeping operations. To allow for comparability, as mandated by the General Assembly (see A/C.5/67/10, para. 73), the data collected corresponded to an identical time period, based on troop and police deployments in June 2017. The base month of June 2017 was chosen to ensure that the most recent data would be collected, while allowing sufficient time for the completion of the survey and the submission of the data to the Assembly.

16. Costs were requested in the currencies in which they had been incurred, and the United Nations operational rate of exchange was applied. This approach produced a "snapshot" of deployment costs for a set period, allowing sample countries to report on actual expenses incurred at a specific point in time.

17. Sample countries were also requested to report on any other costs. The data presented in table 2 include only common and essential costs in the mandated categories referred to above.

C. Review of data

18. Following the completion of the final questionnaires, the data collected were reviewed to ensure completeness and comprehensiveness so that all relevant information provided by the sample countries could be properly understood. In analysing the information, the primary consideration was to ensure that the costs captured were comparable and specific to the deployment of personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

19. The data were strictly analysed in terms of the actual common costs incurred by the sample countries during the period specified in the survey. Although the data collected, in particular those on allowances, clearly indicate a relationship between the current rate of reimbursement and the costs incurred by troop- and police-contributing countries, the survey was not designed to assess how the current reimbursement was being used.

20. To assist the participating countries in ensuring that the data represented actual additional common costs, the review benefited from a methodology that allows for an interactive approach (ibid., para. 70). Accordingly, follow-up visits to participating countries were made between November 2017 and January 2018 by Secretariat-led teams comprising relevant military, police and budgetary experts. In most cases, revised questionnaires were submitted to reflect the clarifications provided during the visits.

21. Unlike in the first review, conducted in 2013 and 2014, the Secretariat, instead of relying on the assistance of a Technical Expert Reference Panel to review and analyse the data, worked with the newly established Headquarters Contingent-Owned Equipment/Memorandum of Understanding Management Review Board, given its composition, which includes military, police, logistical, political and financial experts at the Director level, to ensure that the approved methodology had been followed and that the data were, as far as possible, complete, consistent and in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly.

D. Presentation of data

22. In its recommendations, the Senior Advisory Group requested that the data collected be collated and the aggregated costs presented by category for each country, and that the overall monthly cost for each sample country also be presented (ibid., para. 71). Such an approach would allow the General Assembly to get a full picture of the costs in each of the representative countries rather than an average or median cost figure (ibid., para. 72).

23. In accordance with that recommendation, the data collected from each of the sample countries are presented in table 2 by category (allowances, personal kit and equipment, predeployment medical expenses, in-country travel and training) for each country. Aggregated costs by category are also provided in the relevant sections below.

24. In line with the approved methodology, the data were collated and aggregated to establish average monthly costs per person over the course of the standard deployment length of 12 months (although some sample countries have adopted shorter deployment periods). However, in most of the cost categories, including the acquisition of personal kit, medical preparation, inland travel and training, the costs are not incurred on a monthly basis. In the case of training, the investment involved in planning, developing and providing predeployment preparation for United Nations peacekeeping can be a long-term activity that requires significant capital expenditure and entails ongoing operational costs.

25. Since each of the 10 countries represents a different percentage of total contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, a simple average across the 10 sample countries would not accurately represent the total costs incurred by the sample countries. Accordingly, the report provides cost data weighted by the contribution of each sample country as a percentage of the sample population. **The weighted average across all five cost categories and reflecting the proportionate size of the individual contributions amounts to $1,427.80 per person per month.**

26. In the light of the legitimate concerns of participating countries about the confidentiality and sensitivity of the data collected, its presentation, as stressed in the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, does not identify individual countries. In keeping with that approach, the data presented in the present report are anonymous, and throughout the process, all information given by the sample countries was handled with complete confidentiality.

Table 2
Summary of the 10 countries and 5 categories of data
(United States dollars)

Sample country	*Average per person monthly amount by category*										*Weighted average*
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	
Allowances	1 729.63	1 173.59	1 032.08	954.66	1 675.67	1 188.45	1 365.00	1 013.35	1 569.75	1 270.18	1 255.41
Personal kit and equipment	148.53	48.06	236.71	165.39	122.35	179.06	87.50	88.58	92.34	71.73	108.14
Predeployment medical expenses	22.83	10.97	42.21	29.91	20.90	31.71	8.37	10.34	56.21	44.86	28.46
Inland transportation	2.50	3.91	4.38	11.23	19.85	18.62	3.59	14.71	44.52	20.83	14.75
United Nations-specific predeployment training	36.75	35.30	34.38	19.85	9.38	32.73	11.05	5.30	18.67	13.43	21.04
Total per person per month	**1 940.23**	**1 271.81**	**1 349.76**	**1 181.04**	**1 848.14**	**1 450.56**	**1 475.51**	**1 132.27**	**1 781.48**	**1 421.02**	**1 427.80**

1. Allowances

27. The data presented in table 2 provide an overall average amount per person per month in each sample country for allowances paid to personnel that are specific to their service in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

28. The questionnaire included a request for detailed information, broken down by rank, on the average monthly allowances paid to officers and non-officers in each infantry battalion and specialized unit. Specific information was also requested about the allowances paid to formed police units.

29. The questionnaire also included an enquiry about any allowances paid to specialized personnel, such as aviation, medical, naval or engineering personnel, and any allowances specific to higher ranks. It was requested that costs associated with regular domestic pay and allowances not be included.

30. There is some variation in the types of, and the approach taken to determining, additional allowances paid for service in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Many countries reported a flat-rate allowance, mostly linked to the United Nations reimbursement rate, which was $1,365 per person per month for the base month of the submitted data (before rising to the current rate of $1,410 per month as from 1 July 2017).

31. More detailed discussions with sample countries about the rate of allowances revealed that several factors in addition to the standard rate of United Nations reimbursement seemed to influence the payment of allowances. One factor in some cases was national legislation that determined the amount and the type of allowance that uniformed personnel must be paid when serving overseas.

32. In general, the allowances reported seemed to increase with seniority; in some sample countries, however, the allowance structure remained relatively flat. Several countries also provided an additional financial incentive for special expertise in high demand, such as aviation and medical skills.

33. The weighted average across all 10 sample countries of the allowances provided to peacekeeping personnel amounts to $1,255.41 (88 per cent of the total weighted average costs) per person per month.

2. Personal kit and equipment

34. The cost data represent the average monthly amount per person amortized over a one-year deployment period. The data are based on the lists of personal kit and equipment for military and police personnel, as set out in the appendix to annex A to chapter 9 of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual. Details were also requested with respect to any additional costs incurred in equipping female contingent members or police officers.

35. While the list of personal kit and equipment is standard for all military and police personnel, table 2 shows a level of variation in costs in this category among sample countries. Several factors need to be considered, including different national production capacities and market prices. In most sample countries, the costs of standard items are established through a central process that reflects market surveys and tendering based on both price and quality. In addition, different national systems in place have differing impacts on the cost structure with respect to kitting and the equipping of personnel.

36. During the survey visits, further details were requested on how the costs were established, including the use of annual amortization amounts for multi-year investments, as well as the impact of the national systems and the acquisition

processes in place to equip soldiers and/or police. In some countries, standard equipment is relatively expensive owing to reliance on importation, which is subject to additional costs, including for tariffs and transportation. In some cases, technical specialists were issued with more specialized kit, which entailed increased costs.

37. Follow-up questions regarding this category have served to enhance understanding of the usage factor in relation to equipment and the approach taken to the supply and resupply of personal equipment for each rotation. All sample countries issue an entirely new set of items upon deployment in nearly all cases. Some countries reported a need to replace standard items during a deployment, in particular given the shift to standard 12-month deployments.

38. The weighted average across all 10 countries of the costs incurred in providing individual contingents with personal kit and equipment has also been calculated and amounts to $108.14 (7.5 per cent of the total weighted average costs) per person per month.

3. Predeployment medical expenses

39. The monthly cost in this category represents the total average amount per person, incurred shortly prior to deployment, amortized over the standard one-year deployment period. The cost data provided by the sample countries comprise costs for vaccinations, examinations, tests and X-rays based on the standard mandatory medical requirements for deployment to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

40. Many sample countries have extensive processes and systems in place for managing the predeployment medical requirements of a large number of personnel deployed to peacekeeping operations, which require additional administrative investments and overhead expenses. As in the case of personal kit items, the national systems and the acquisition processes, in particular for vaccinations, have a major impact on the costs. Similarly, in some cases there are differences between military and police medical expenses. In most cases, medical facilities administered by military institutions have a major impact on such costs.

41. Several sample countries provided the costs of examinations or tests in addition to the common requirements specified in the questionnaire. Whereas the good health of troops and police is of direct benefit to the United Nations, those costs were not included in the overall amounts in order to ensure comparability.

42. While costs associated with predeployment medical processes were explicitly requested in the questionnaire, sample countries also noted that they had incurred costs associated with post-deployment medical examinations and procedures that were specific to service in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including psychological examinations, tests and counselling. The General Assembly may wish to consider including peacekeeping-specific post-deployment medical expenses in future survey exercises.

43. The weighted monthly average across all 10 countries of the costs incurred in providing predeployment medical examinations, tests and vaccinations amounts to $28.46 (2 per cent of the total weighted average costs) per person per month.

4. Inland transportation

44. This category comprises the average monthly amount expended per person for costs incurred in moving a contingent, once ready to deploy, to the point of assembly and/or disembarkation to a United Nations peacekeeping operation. It represents the total average amount per person amortized over a one-year period. In line with the methodology of using an identical period, the data presented relate specifically to the costs of transporting troops who were in place in missions in June 2017.

45. The costs reflect the considerable diversity within the sample countries in terms of size, terrain and infrastructure, as well as the different national systems in place for forming troops and police. In addition, some countries provided data on costs related to the internal transport of contingents/police to areas in which United Nations-specific training was being conducted. Those costs were disaggregated and added to the other costs of training.

46. The weighted average across all 10 countries of the costs incurred for inland transportation amounts to $14.76 (1 per cent of the total weighted average costs) per person per month.

5. United Nations-specific predeployment training

47. Given the difficulties involved in establishing a standard methodology for determining the cost of training across diverse systems and contexts, the questionnaire included a request for details on all the training specific to United Nations peacekeeping provided to personnel before their deployment and the costs involved according to general categories, namely, instructors, materials, specialized equipment, facilities, and any other costs.

48. This category is the most complex, given that training costs can comprise broader types of costs, such as the operational costs of a peacekeeping training centre or the costs of managing a complex simulated exercise involving the implementation of United Nations mandates. While the follow-up visits considerably assisted in the clarification of training costs, the vastly different national systems and approaches utilized in the sample countries made it difficult to determine fully comparable costs.

49. Another factor noted is the considerable differences, in terms of time, curriculum and investment, between military and police training in some cases. While a mandatory curriculum and a standardized predeployment training programme are in place for formed police units, including assessment of the operational readiness of personnel, the situation regarding peacekeeping training for military personnel is more diverse. However, formed police units are to be trained to a standard whereby they are competent in police techniques in peacekeeping operations, public order management, and firearms.

50. While training remains the responsibility of the contributing countries, the United Nations provides the guidance on the predeployment training of formed police units. Given the fact that, unlike military contingents deployed to peacekeeping operations, formed police units are often assembled anew, the policy requires that the operational component of a formed police unit and its command element be formed not less than six months prior to deployment. During this period, all formed police unit personnel receive predeployment training based on United Nations peacekeeping predeployment training standards. All formed police units to be deployed to United Nations peacekeeping operations are to be assessed by a United Nations formed police unit assessment team in terms of operational capacity and readiness; the professional background of the unit and its language, driving and shooting skills; United Nations competencies; and the specific training received.

51. The weighted average across all 10 countries of the costs incurred for United Nations-specific predeployment training amounts to $21.04 (1.5 per cent of the total weighted average costs) per person per month.

III. General observations

52. With respect to reviewing the cost data, some general observations related to the process and the data collected with respect to each of the five categories of costs are worth highlighting, as follows:

(a) In addition to the differences between the sample countries with respect to number of deployments and level of income, it is important to consider their different histories of contributing to peacekeeping, as well as the variety of national systems for and approaches to forming and sustaining troops and police. Those factors have a major impact on the process of establishing composite units, with considerable time and resources spent on preparing personnel in such units for deployment;

(b) Investment by the sample countries in the various cost categories was not always easy to isolate from general military/police expenses. Inevitably, costs were incurred that, while spent in relation to peacekeeping, also benefited more general activities carried out by national military or police personnel;

(c) Given that four of the cost categories were incurred on a one-off basis for each deployment, the monthly cost per person does not necessarily reflect the pattern of expenditure and investment by the sample countries. In some categories, such as training, the investment involved in planning, developing and providing predeployment preparation for United Nations peacekeeping operations can, in effect, be a long-term activity that requires significant capital expenditure and entails ongoing operational and maintenance costs;

(d) In some instances, there were also overlaps between and among the cost categories, with personal kit and equipment, for example, being issued specifically for training periods or for training-related travel. The same applied, although to a lesser extent, in the case of allowances during training;

(e) The sample countries follow different patterns in utilizing the reimbursement provided by the United Nations. For example, some of them traditionally pay the full amount of the reimbursement, which is intended to cover all five categories of costs, directly to their personnel in the form of allowances. This adds to the variation in the costs incurred by each of the sample countries and the extent to which the reimbursement covers those costs;

(f) In a few instances, expenditure was reported as unique to one country; in others, a cost was identified as significant in line with the national system of the contributing country (e.g., related to the dependants of contingent members). Since the review applies to both common and essential costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations, such individual costs are t.. en into account in "other costs", which are covered in the section below;

(g) Typically, the area of deployment has an impact on most of the five cost categories. Accordingly, as the level of risk in the individual peacekeeping missions increases, non-uniform additional costs may be incurred. Examples of such costs were reflected in some questionnaires, including the costs of danger pay, specialized training, specialized equipment and additional vaccinations;

(h) Costs also vary by type of deployment. The cost of deploying common types of contingents is often different from the cost of deploying a specialized unit. Furthermore, in most cases, police units do not exist organically and are constituted specifically for service in United Nations operations. They are usually assessed prior to deployment, including for rotation purposes. This requires considerably longer predeployment lead times and preparation;

(i) Similarly, the length of deployment has an impact on costs. While the General Assembly established the typical personnel rotation cycle at 12 months, some contributing countries elected to rotate their personnel at shorter intervals. The costs of preparing troops in such cases are proportionate to the number of rotations carried out per year;

(j) Although they may not necessarily affect the levels of the corresponding costs, some of these factors and variations may affect the comparability of the data. Throughout the survey process, the Secretariat teams worked with the sample countries to isolate specific common costs to the extent possible. To that end, various factors resulting in uncommon or overhead costs have been neutralized in the data presented. Any additional categories of costs, other than the weighted averages of costs, are reflected in the section below entitled "Other costs";

(k) Although costs incurred by specific contributing countries may have changed since the previous survey was conducted, the cost average is also affected by differences in both the make-up of the sample of contributing countries and their weighting within the sample group.

IV. Other costs

53. In addition to the five mandated categories of costs, the questionnaire included a request for information about any other costs. A range of the various expenses that were reported are worth noting, although in most cases they were not common to all contributing countries participating in the survey. **One commonly reported cost was related to the issuance of passports (the weighted average of this cost is $2.72 per person per month).**

54. In addition, some of the sample countries reported that they had incurred post-deployment expenses in different areas, including demobilization and medical examinations.

55. The following points list some of the additional costs reported in the five categories:

(a) *Allowances*. Because of the nature of this category, no additional allowances were reported beyond those included in the weighted average; other reported allowances were not considered to be specific to United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) *Personal kit and equipment*. A number of the sample countries reported that they had provided their personnel with items of personal kit and equipment in addition to those required by United Nations standards. These included articles of clothing as well as mission-specific equipment. The lowest additional cost per person per month for other items in this category was $2.38, while the highest was $94.22;

(c) *Predeployment medical expenses*. In accordance with national systems, all the sample countries reported costs for various medical procedures or items of equipment in addition to those required by United Nations standards, including additional tests, vaccinations and medical kits. The additional cost per person per month in this category ranged between a minimum of $0.12 and a maximum of $48.42;

(d) *Inland transportation*. At least one country reported additional costs involving the transportation of dependants to a home location prior to the deployment of contingent members to a peacekeeping mission. The additional cost per person per month in this category was found to be approximately $54;

(e) *Training*. The range of costs in this category is directly proportional to the variation in the types of additional training programmes provided for different units. Some countries also identified allowances that were payable to contingent members during their predeployment training. These costs ranged between a minimum of $5.03 per person per month, as reported by one participating country, and a maximum of $1,716.71 per person per month, as reported by another participating country.

56. In addition to reporting the other costs associated with the five core cost categories included in the survey, a number of participating countries expressed concern about the costs associated with returning contingents or individual contingent members to normal duties, and/or their reintegration, following a United Nations peacekeeping deployment. These additional costs included inland transportation, medical examinations and even training.

V. Costs specific to the deployment of women peacekeepers

57. The number of female uniformed peacekeepers deployed in contingents increased over the past four years, from 3,801 in January 2014 to 4,275 in December 2017. Women peacekeepers have specific needs and requirements in terms of their personal kit and equipment and other aspects of their deployment, including the need for dedicated accommodation and other facilities.

58. Accordingly, the questionnaire included a request for specific information on costs associated with deploying women peacekeepers. However, although 9 of the 10 participating countries deploy female uniformed personnel, very few costs specific to female contingent members were reported. Furthermore, most of the reported costs were related to national traditions, which are not considered to be common or essential to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

59. A number of observations on the specific costs, by category, related to the deployment of women peacekeepers are as follows:

(a) *Allowances*. One sample country reported an additional allowance paid to female police personnel as an incentive for deployment;

(b) *Personal kit and equipment*. A few sample countries reported specific items of personal gear provided to female contingent members and police officers, including specific uniform items such as coats and shoes;

(c) *Predeployment medical expenses*. Countries providing female contingent members reported additional costs related to administering pregnancy tests and gynaecological examinations. Since these could be considered essential costs common to countries deploying female uniformed personnel, the General Assembly may wish to consider adding them to the cost data to be collected and considered in the context of the next review. **The weighted average of such costs submitted by countries deploying female personnel is $1.27 per person per month.**

(d) *Inland transportation*. During the follow-up visit, a country indicated that an allowance was provided to female contingent members for maintaining contact with their families, although this was not quantified or reflected in a submission;

(e) *Training*. Specific accommodation and facilities costs incurred during predeployment training periods were indicated to the teams visiting two countries, although the costs were never reported formally.

VI. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

60. **The General Assembly is requested to:**

(a) **Take note of the report of the Secretary-General;**

(b) **Express appreciation to the sample countries for their participation in the survey;**

(c) **Review the rate of reimbursement to countries contributing uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations.**

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Agenda item 72
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 24 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on declaring the year 2018 in the Republic of Uzbekistan as the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72.

(*Signed*) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

In Uzbekistan the year 2018 has been declared the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies

At the suggestion of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in Uzbekistan the year 2018 has been declared the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies.

A presidential decree approved the State programme on the implementation of the Strategy of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan in five priority development areas for the period 2017–2021 during the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies.

The State programme consists of five sections covering the following areas:

- Development of the State and society: enhancement of the profile and efficiency of the civil service; review of the tasks and structures of the executive authorities, increase in the autonomy of the heads of ministries, departments and local authorities; transfer of certain powers from central to local authorities; significant improvement in the accessibility, quality and efficiency of public services; and full support for civil society institutions and the media;

- Ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law and further reform of the judicial system: further strengthening of constitutional guarantees of the privacy of citizens, including transfer to the courts of the right to authorize searches and the interception of telephone conversations; establishment of a commission attached to the *Oliy Majlis* to protect the independence of the judiciary; radical reform of the national security agencies; equipping of temporary holding facilities, remand centres and penal institutions with video surveillance systems; provision of portable video cameras for members of the road patrol and checkpoint patrol service; and optimization of the number of patrol checkpoints;

- Development of the economy and support for active entrepreneurship: creation of legal and organizational conditions conducive to the development of active entrepreneurship and the adoption of innovative ideas and technologies; further improvement of legal safeguards and mechanisms to prevent unlawful interference in entrepreneurial activities, fiscal and customs policies, and the banking and financial sectors; the development of a strategy to reform the agricultural sector; the allocation of benefits to industries and economic sectors, rather than to individuals; and active regional development;

- Improvement of social services: implementation of a set of measures to further strengthen social protection and health care; establishment of an extensive network of social pharmacies; a boost in employment and the real incomes of citizens; definition of a basket of consumer goods; an increase in social housing; and full targeted support for socially vulnerable segments of the population, including persons with disabilities;

- Ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuit of foreign policy: adoption of a new national security framework for the Republic of Uzbekistan; implementation of a set of measures to strengthen and develop further military and military-technical cooperation with foreign partners, improve the State border protection and security system, counter terrorism,

extremism and information threats, and strengthen inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony and religious tolerance; radical reform of the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions; enhancement of the system for protecting the rights and interests of citizens abroad; and the continuation of a mutually beneficial foreign policy and development of trade and economic, and also cultural and humanitarian relations.

The State programme provides for the drafting of 37 laws (the electoral code and laws on the civil service, the protection of personal data, the rights of persons with disabilities, science and innovation, among others), the adoption of 142 legal and regulatory acts and action on 52 practical measures in various areas.

The adoption of a civil service act will be a key step. This act will contribute to creating a decent wage and social protection system for public servants and will enhance their accountability for their work.

There will be a true decentralization of State functions and powers. First, some government functions, particularly in the area of licensing and authorization procedures, will be transferred to the ministries and agencies, and to local public authorities. Secondly, the powers of *khokims* at all levels will be expanded, with a strengthening of their roles as the individuals responsible for implementing State policy and protecting the rights and interests of citizens in their regions.

The ultimate objective of these reforms is to improve the actual powers of local authorities in order to accelerate socioeconomic development and foster the well-being of the population.

A system for collective email petitions will be introduced as a new mechanism to protect the rights of citizens to participate in the governance of the State. It will allow citizens to pose specific questions to representative government bodies, which will be obliged to respond to requests endorsed by a certain number of citizens.

Active citizens and public organizations can use this mechanism to suggest solutions to various problems. This is consistent with the principle that decisions of crucial importance for the life of the country should be taken on the basis of direct dialogue.

The next priority of the State programme is to ensure supremacy of the rule of law and further reform of the judicial and legal system.

A policy for the development of criminal law and the law of criminal procedure over the period 2018–2021 is to be drafted, and the statute of limitations for instituting criminal proceedings against a person is to be reviewed. There are also plans to liberalize criminal and administrative liability and to improve procedural norms.

The third priority of the State programme is development of the economy and support for active entrepreneurship.

In the area of development and liberalization of the economy, there is to be a phased transition to a new model of innovative development based on cutting-edge ideas, smart technology and know-how.

A legal framework will be developed for the creation and development of venture funds, venture capital and mechanisms to encourage the adoption of innovations and modern technology in the economy.

For the period until 1 January 2023, venture funds, high-tech start-ups, research institutions, innovation centres and engineering design bureaux have been granted tax relief on income derived from the sale (or transfer for use) of their new technologies to entrepreneurs.

Land plots will be allocated through e-tendering to ensure transparency and legality. A system for the sale of State assets through electronic trading platforms is to be established.

There will be a major review of legislation on banks and banking activities, with the introduction of digital banking, Internet banking and other modern technologies in that sector.

Efforts to improve and optimize fiscal and customs policies, reduce the tax burden and simplify the tax and customs administration will continue.

Particular attention will be given to the development of tourism, promoting inbound and domestic tourism, and simplifying administrative and visa procedures for tourists.

The next section of the State programme is the development of social services.

Issues relating to the basket of consumer goods are to be subject to legal regulation, in order to determine the level of income required for a decent standard of living. There will be a phased transition to a system of determining wages, pensions and other Social payments based on the basket of consumer goods by region.

Efforts to improve the health-care system and improve the quality of health services will continue. A system of smart medicine and innovative technologies for health care will be introduced.

The State programme provides for the establishment and opening of 2,000 social pharmacies, which will deliver high-quality medicines at affordable prices.

The construction of affordable housing will be increased by a factor of 1.5–2 in 2018, to provide for the growing needs of the population, especially of young families. A total of 5.286 trillion Uzbek sum have been allocated for this purpose.

To ensure full coverage of telecommunications services, there are plans to install 2,000 kilometres of optical fibre networks in remote areas, increase Internet speed by a factor of 2.5 and commission over 4,000 mobile communication base stations.

The fifth priority of the State programme is ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuing a prudent, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy.

A framework for State policy on cooperation with fellow citizens living and working abroad will be drafted and adopted.

The religious education system will be reviewed to make it more effective and ensure a greater impact, particularly among young people.

A total of 13.5 trillion Uzbek sum and US$ 1.3 billion will be allocated to implement the measures set out in the State programme.

Implementation of the activities set out in the State programme will be a powerful impetus for the further economic development of Uzbekistan and will bring about a real improvement in the well-being and quality of life of citizens.